

32 The present Office Action was made final because "Applicant's amendment necessitated  
33 the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action." Clearly, this is not the case, as  
34 evidenced by the content of the current Office Action, and the finality of the Office Action  
35 should be withdrawn.

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37 In the Amendment dated March 26, 2001, the single word "displayed" was added to three  
38 of the claims. This was the only change.

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40 In the Amendment of March 26, Applicants stated that "Independent Claim 1 recites "a  
41 subprocess for retrieving and displaying relationship information from said model when said  
42 selected element is a component of said model". Relative to this subject matter, the AAPA on  
43 pages 3 - 5 of the Specification was cited. However, Applicants are unable to find this subject  
44 matter on these pages. For example, on page 5, beginning on line 3, it is stated that "The  
45 elements of the list in this pane again depend on the user's selection, and the type of elements  
46 defined as being available through the relationship(s) of the view the browser provides." This  
47 does not teach, suggest or disclose "retrieving and displaying relationship information..." No  
48 relationship information is retrieved based on selection of an element from a model; no retrieved  
49 relationship information is then displayed. On page 4, lines 11 - 13, there is a discussion that a  
50 relationship exists between elements displayed in a first pane and elements displayed in a second  
51 pane. But there is no discussion or teaching that relationship information is retrieved and  
52 displayed from the model when the selected element is a component of the model. Accordingly,  
53 Applicants submit that the AAPA does not teach, suggest or disclose this subject matter."

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55 This portion of the rejection was abandoned in the current Office Action, and it was not  
56 because of any amendment to the claims. Clearly, the prior rejection was abandoned because the  
57 claims distinguished over the art, not because of any amendment. Accordingly, the finality of the  
58 prior Office Action should be withdrawn.

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60 II Traversal of the Rejections over the Cited Art

62 The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being  
63 anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,903,478 to Fintel et al (Fintel). The Examiner rejected claims  
64 3-6, 10-13 and 17-20 as being unpatentable over Fintel in view of "applicant's admitted prior art  
65 (AAPA) at pages 3-5, 25". Applicants traverse these rejections below.

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67 A. The Present Invention

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69 The present invention discloses a technique for displaying and editing components of data  
70 which may have complex many-to-many (i.e. non-hierarchical) relationships, using a program  
71 such as a browser. The components are presented in such a way as to make the **relationships**  
72 explicitly visible, allowing a user to navigate the **relationships** in an efficient, intuitive manner  
73 that clearly aligns with the structure of the underlying object model. In a preferred embodiment,  
74 when the user **selects** one of the explicit relationships, he is presented with a list of actions  
75 tailored to that relationship. In a further enhancement, the user may define one or more filters  
76 that will be applied to the actions list before it is presented.

77  
78 Independent Claim 1 recites "a subprocess for retrieving and displaying relationship  
79 information from said model when said selected element is a component of said model".  
80 Relative to this subject matter, Figure 181 of Fintel was cited. However, Applicants are unable  
81 to find this subject matter in this Figure. Figure 181 is described as illustrating "a process of  
82 establishing relationships between the objects that will be included in the symbol-based decision  
83 rationale table." This does not teach, suggest or disclose "retrieving and displaying relationship  
84 information..." No relationship information is retrieved based on selection of an element from a  
85 model; no retrieved relationship information is then displayed. Further, Fintel does not discuss,  
86 teach or suggest an "object model" per se.

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88 Amended Claim 1 also recites "a subprocess for enabling said user to select one or more  
89 relationships from said displayed relationship information". Relative to this subject matter,  
90 Figures 175 - 201 are cited. There is no apparent description or discussion of a user selecting a  
91 relationship. There is no description or discussion of a user selecting a relationship from  
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92 “displayed relationship information.” Nothing is based on the selection of an element from an  
93 object model, as per the present claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Fintel  
94 does not teach, suggest or disclose this subject matter.

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96 In summary, the present invention is directed to the understanding of relationships, and its  
97 claims recite the concept that relationship information is displayed and that relationships are  
98 selectable by a user. This concept is not taught, suggested or disclosed in the cited art. This is the  
99 problem with the prior art that is addressed by the present invention. The logical elements, such  
100 as the classes and methods, presented in the pane, are selectable in the prior art. However, in a  
101 complex object model, this is not enough information. Other relationships exist which cannot be  
102 presented in the hierarchical format of the cited prior art. As discussed on page 11 of the  
103 Application, “relationships are explicitly represented as elements of the model, as are the objects  
104 (components) in that model...object models which are not strictly hierarchical in structure can be  
105 conveniently and intuitively navigated, edited, and populated using the present  
106 invention...relational databases typically have many complex relationships, which are not  
107 necessarily hierarchical in structure.” Further, “by explicitly displaying the complex  
108 relationships of the relational model, the present invention enables a user to better comprehend  
109 the underlying model...”(page 12).

110  
111 Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over  
112 the cited art. Independent Claims 8 and 15 were rejected for the same reasons as Claim 1.  
113 Accordingly, it follows that these claims also patentably distinguish over the cited art, and it  
114 follows that the dependent claims also patentably distinguish over the cited art.

### 115 116 III. Summary

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118 Applicants have presented technical explanations and arguments fully supporting  
119 their position that the pending claims contain subject matter which is not taught, suggested or  
120 disclosed by the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present Application is in a

121 condition for Allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly  
122 solicited.

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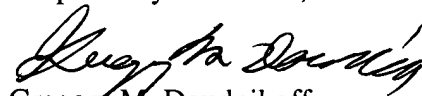
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Respectfully submitted,



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